



**RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MALLING**

ANNUAL REPORT

on the
Health of the Malling District
for the year 1972

By
The Medical Officer of Health
Dr. F. H. M. DUMMER
and
Chief Public Health Inspector
H. C. COLDRICK

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F.H.M. Dummer, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J.T. Cecil, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

H.C. Coldrick, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E.L. Allsop, M.A.P.H.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

G.J.H. Roscow (Senior District Inspector)

G.P.H. Cackett

R.M. Cripps, M.A.P.H.I. (Cleansing Inspector)

J.B. Cahill,	(Technical Assistant)	Resigned 4.8.72.
B.C. Mitchell,	" "	Commenced 18.9.72.
C.E. Fenwick,	" "	

D.H.J. Penfold, (Work Study Officer)

CLERKS

R.W. Wellard

A.C. Wickwar

Mrs. D.M. Russell (Resigned 4.8.72)

Miss B.A. Mitchell (" 7.5.72)

Miss A.W. Whiteside

Miss V. Hughes (Commenced 5.6.72)

Mrs. J.M. Grinstead (" 21.8.72)

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. J.A. Davison, Chairman

Mr. A.J. Wooldridge, Vice Chairman

Mrs. S.R. Demeny

Mr. W. Hadley

Mr. R.R.L. Hearsey

Mr. F.B.T. Simpson

Mr. M.J. Stone

Mr. R.B. Boulton

Mr. M.Z. Atkinson
(Resigned)

Mr. V. Ient (w.e.f.
23.9.72)

Mr. W.H.H. Durling

Mr. R.L. Terry

Mr. D. Thornevell

Mr. A. Gradwell

Mrs. E. Fordham

Mr. C.J.C. Brown

Mr. L.A. Wheeler

Mr. J.M. Browning

Mr. R.C. Bearsby

Mr. A.J. Busbridge

Mr. J.F. Pout

Mrs. J.D. Cockerill

Mrs. J.P. Davies

Mr. C.N. Benfield

Mr. H. Sibun

Mr. G. Childs

Medical Officer of Health's Office,
13, Tonbridge Road,
MAIDSTONE,
Kent.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices;
123, High Street;
WEST MALLING,
Kent.

(Maidstone 54072)

West Malling 842939

12th July, 1973.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my sixteenth Annual Report on the health of the Rural District of Malling.

I am happy to be able to report that the District's health continues to be good, with low infantile mortality, very few new cases of tuberculosis, and an incidence of notified disease that compares very favourably with the rest of the country.

One of the main bulwarks of protection against the more serious infectious diseases such as poliomyelitis and diphtheria, is immunisation and I am very glad to see that the response has been maintained at a good level. Once we allow any apathy in this direction the consequences could be very grave indeed. In a rapidly contracting world as far as the importance of distance is concerned, we should not forget the protection from other diseases too, such as the enteric group, in which the possibilities of contracting disease are many.

The presentation of an Annual Report gives me the fortunate and pleasant opportunity to thank those with whom one has worked during the year and those who have co-operated in the public health endeavours in which we have been engaged. I acknowledge my gratitude to Mr. Coldrick for the loyal assistance - and friendship - I have received from him, not only last year but throughout the sixteen years of our partnership in the Health Department. My thanks too are expressed to Mr. Allsop and the other Inspectors and Technical and Clerical Staff for their efficiency and enthusiasm. I have been greatly encouraged by the support of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and of my colleagues in all other Departments.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

F. H. M. DUMMER

Medical Officer of Health.

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EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Legitimate	455	433	888
Illegitimate	26	27	53
Total	481	460	941
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population - crude			17.2
corrected			15.5
<u>Still Births</u>	3	1	4
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births			4
Total live and still births	484	461	945
<u>Infant Deaths</u>	11	4	15
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births			16
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			17
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			12
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			10
Perinatal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week and still births combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			14
Maternal mortality (including abortion)			-
Maternal mortality per 1,000 live and still births			-
<u>Deaths</u>	280	232	512
Death rate per 1,000 population - crude			9.3
corrected			12.1
Death rate for England and Wales			12.1

Comparative table showing birth rate, death
rate, and infant mortality rate

MALLING R.D.C.	Per 1,000 estimated mid-year Home Population				Per 1,000 total live and still births	Per 1,000 live births
	Live Birth Rate		Death Rate		Still Birth Rate	Death rate of infants under 1 year of age
	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate		
1968	22.32	21.19	10.24	12.69	15.91	11.06
1969	20.4	19.4	9.7	11.7	13	12
1970	18.7	17.8	9.2	10.9	15	21
1971	19.1	18.1	9.9	11.8	13	14
1972	17.2	15.5	9.3	12.1	4	15
England & Wales 1972	14.8		12.1		12	17

The year 1972 saw a substantial fall in the birth rate locally and nationally. It may be that this is especially significant in a "young" district such as yours as compared with the "average" for England and Wales.

The following table relates to the incidence of Notifiable
Diseases in 1972, according to age groups.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 - 9 years	10 -14 years	15 -24 years	25 and over	TOTALS
Measles	10	27	26	38	23	147	1	1	-	273
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	4
Pulmonary TB	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	12	13
Non Pulmonary TB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	3	4	1	-	-	9
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	10	27	26	39	26	152	6	1	18	305

TUBERCULOSIS

The table set out below records in age groups the new cases registered during the year, together with the number of deaths which occurred.

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	2	3	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	10	-	-	2	-	-	-

I am indebted to Dr. A. P. Bentley, the Consultant Chest Physician, for the following details of the numbers of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis examined during the year, and the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis. These figures relate to the area of the Chest Clinic which coincides with the area of the four authorities, Maidstone Borough, Maidstone R.D., Hollingbourn R.D., and Malling R.D.,

(a)	Number of contacts seen during 1972 of newly notified cases of tuberculosis	...	...	198
(b)	Number of contacts examined during 1972 of cases notified prior to 1972	...	...	143
(c)	Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	-
(d)	Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	1

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION 1972

The following tables show the figures for 1972 based on the return sent to the Department of Health and Social Security by the County Medical Officer.

Year of Birth	Primary					
	Triple Antigen	Diphtheria Tetanus	Tetanus	Measles	Polio-myelitis	Rubella
1972	67	1	-	1	74	-
1971	631	7	2	369	746	-
1970	151	13	1	208	241	-
1969	7	8	-	18	23	-
1968	6	4	-	32	4	-
1967	2	3	1	15	-	-
1965-1966	-	3	3	10	-	-
1956-1964	-	-	22	2	-	374
Totals	864	37	29	655	1088	374

Year of Birth	Re-Inforcing			
	Triple antigen	Diphtheria Tetanus	Tetanus	Polio-myelitis
1972	-	-	-	-
1971	2	-	1	-
1970	45	9	4	-
1969	1	5	-	-
1968	16	73	1	91
1967	36	259	2	610
1965-1966	6	78	5	87
1956-1964	2	12	179	198
Totals	108	436	192	986

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION 1972

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1969	7	8	-	18	23	-
1968	6	4	-	32	4	-
1967	2	3	1	15	-	-
1965-1966	-	3	3	10	-	-
1956-1964	-	-	22	2	-	374
Totals	864	37	29	655	1088	374

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CANCER
(including Leukaemia)

The following tables give analyses of deaths from malignant disease according to age groups and sites affected.

AGE GROUPS	MALE	FEMALE
0 - 1 year	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	2
15 - 24 years	-	1
25 - 34 years	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	3
45 - 54 years	5	5
55 - 64 years	18	16
65 - 74 years	15	12
75 years and over	13	12
TOTALS	51	51

SITE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Buccal Cavity	-	-	-
Oesophagus	3	-	3
Stomach	7	3	10
Intestine	6	10	16
Larynx	-	-	-
Lung, Bronchus	24	9	33
Breast	-	13	13
Uterus	-	3	3
Prostate	5	-	5
Other Sites	6	12	18
Leukaemia	-	1	1
TOTALS	51	51	102

There was a welcome decrease in the number of cancer deaths in 1972 at 102 compared with 113 in 1971. The main fall occurred in cancer of the lung, and a narrower distribution of site cancers.

The age groups involved were similar to those of last year with only a slight invasion into the younger age groups.

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1972

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 - 6 months	7 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Bronchiolitis	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	3
Prematurity	4	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	5
Intracranial Haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Congenital Abnormalities	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3
Pulmonary Haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Unclassified	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	8	2	2	2	14	-	1	-	15

In my opinion, of the above 15 deaths, at least 6 were entirely unavoidable in the present state of our knowledge.

Birth Rates, Death Rates and Analysis of Mortality
in the year 1972

AREA	Rate per 1,000 Population	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population				Rate per 1,000	
						Live Births	Related Births
	Live Births	All Causes	Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	Cancer of the Lung	Other Cancer	Total deaths under 1 year	Still Births
England and Wales	14.8	12.1	*	*	**	17	12
Hollingbourn R.D.	14.7	12.2	0.00	0.55	1.24	19	19
Maidstone R.D.	16.7	11.1	0.04	0.4	2.1	13	11
Malling R.D.	15.5	12.1	0.036	0.6	1.26	16	4
Maidstone Borough	15.5	11.6	0.08	0.6	1.79	10	18
County of Kent	15.0	12.5	0.02	0.48	1.30	14	10

CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1972

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	-
2. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
3. Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	3	-
4. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	3
5. Malignant neoplasm, intestine	6	10
6. Malignant neoplasm, lung and bronchus	24	9
7. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	13
8. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
9. Malignant neoplasm, prostate	5	-
10. Leukaemia	-	1
11. Other malignant neoplasms	6	12
12. Benign and unspecified neoplasms	-	2
13. Diabetes mellitus	4	2
14. Other endocrine diseases	1	-
15. Anaemias	-	1
16. Mental disorders	-	1
17. Meningitis	-	1
18. Multiple sclerosis	1	-
19. Other diseases of nervous system	4	2
20. Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	4
21. Hypertensive disease	2	6
22. Ischaemic heart disease	73	43
23. Other forms of heart disease	17	19
24. Cerebrovascular disease	31	44
25. Other diseases of circulatory system	16	7
26. Influenza	1	2
27. Pneumonia	19	16
28. Bronchitis and emphysema	19	7
29. Asthma	-	1
30. Other respiratory diseases	5	3
31. Peptic ulcer	3	-
32. Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	1	-
33. Cirrhosis of liver	2	1
34. Other diseases of digestive system	1	3
35. Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	-
36. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
37. Other diseases of genito-urinary system	1	2
38. Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	1
39. Congenital anomalies	2	6
40. Birth injury, difficult labour, and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	4	-
41. Other causes of perinatal mortality	3	1
42. Ill-defined conditions	5	4
43. Motor vehicle accidents	4	2
44. All other accidents	1	-
45. Suicide and self-inflicted wounds	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL ALL CAUSES:	<u>280</u>	<u>232</u>

Public Health Department,
Council Offices;
123, High Street,
West Malling.

12th June, 1973.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Malling,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my twenty-fifth Annual Report on the environmental circumstances obtaining in the Rural District for the year ended 31st December 1972. This will, of course, be my last report to the Council in its present form.

The position with regard to staff unfortunately was not as stable as 1971. Mr. J.B. Cahill, the Technical Assistant to the Public Health Inspectors resigned at the beginning of August and was replaced in September by Mr. B.C. Mitchell. Both the Clerk Typists resigned, Miss B.A. Mitchell being replaced by Miss V. Hughes and Mrs. D.M. Russell by Mrs. J.M. Grinstead. As Mrs. Russell had been with the Department for 14 years and Miss Mitchell for 4 years the effect on the work of the Clerical section was quite considerable. Mrs. Grinstead resigned in December. The fact that the Department functioned as smoothly as it did reflects great credit on Mr. Wellard and Miss Whiteside.

The position with regard to the Public Health Inspectors is that although there were no changes, the Department is understaffed. With the ever increasing amount of work, it was obvious that at least one additional Inspector would be needed before reorganisation if all aspects of work were to receive anything like the attention they deserve. By the end of the year, authority had been given to increasing the establishment by one Inspector, the consent of the Staff Commission obtained and the post advertised.

Local Government reorganisation gained momentum with the publication of the County boundaries, the confirmation of the amalgamation of this Authority with Tonbridge U.D.C. and the parishes of Hadlow and Hildenborough in Tonbridge R.D.C. to give a district with a population at mid 1971 of 93,486, and with the allocation of functions between Counties and districts. It was not until these matters had been finalised that serious discussions could be commenced between the three amalgamating Authorities to endeavour to find the best methods of integrating the work of the various departments and to formulate recommendations for the new district Council to consider when elected in 1973. Transfer of functions between the County and the district and agency arrangements are also matters requiring attention. It is still not clear whether or not the reorganisation of water resources and the consequent take over of sewage works will in fact take place on 1st April, 1974 as originally intended. There can be no doubt that a considerable amount of work is and will be entailed if the change-over to the new Authority is to be achieved in a smooth and satisfactory manner, and, at the same time maintain an efficient service in the interim period.

During the year, two major items of legislation were enacted affecting the work of the Department. The first, The Housing Finance Act 1972 is perhaps better known by the publicity that has been given to the increase of rents of Council houses and to the rent rebate schemes. It did however, affect the procedures with respect to Qualification Certificates and did away with the necessity for obtaining a provisional certificate for those dwellings not provided with all the standard amenities. Also, it brought in a 3 year staged programme for bringing remaining controlled tenancies out of rent control and into rent regulation without the necessity for the dwelling to be provided with all the standard amenities and be in good state of repair. Only those premises which have been notified as unfit are excluded. The other major item was the Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act 1972, which for the first time gave some control over the tipping of waste on industrial tips.

The position with regard to cesspool emptying showed a considerable improvement towards the end of the year when the work study scheme was brought into operation. Further consideration was given to the use of polythene sacks for refuse collection and it was decided to carry out a further trial scheme but on a larger scale than in 1971. This should be commenced early in 1973. No problems were experienced with regard to refuse disposal but the question of the reduced life of the refuse tip if the Snodland bypass is implemented was not resolved during the year. The County Council who will be responsible for refuse disposal, but not refuse collection, after reorganisation, have been requested to provide a satisfactory alternative site for the tipping of refuse. The initial work schemes for both refuse collection and cesspool emptying were completed and put into operation during the year.

Details of the various aspects of the work of the Department with comments on each subject will be found in the following pages of this report.

HOUSING

Housing in all its facets continued to be an important part of the work of the Department as in previous years. The emphasis continued to be on improvement and repair rather than demolition, this is perhaps particularly so as this is an area of extreme housing shortage. Not only are properties on the Slum Clearance list bought by private individuals and by the use of Improvement Grants converted into modern dwellings provided with all modern amenities and fit in all respects, but also farm buildings such as oast houses and the like are treated in a similar manner. However, it is still necessary from time to time to deal with dwellings under the Slum Clearance provisions and during 1972, 4 representations of individual properties were made, resulting in 1 demolition order, 2 undertakings that the property should not be re-occupied as a dwelling until made fit to the satisfaction of the Council, and the acceptance of 1 offer of works to make the dwelling fit, 1 further house was closed informally.

3 houses were demolished during the year, in respect of 2, this action was carried out informally. 5 families comprising 18 persons were rehoused by the Council from unfit dwellings. 1 house, the subject of a closing order made in a previous year, was made fit and the order rescinded.

Excluding visits in connection with Improvement Grants and Qualification Certificates 1440 visits were made in connection with the subject and it was found necessary to serve 59 informal and 5 statutory notices regarding repairs to properties. At the beginning of the year, the Magistrates Court awarded £25 costs against the owner of 4 cottages in respect of non-compliance with statutory notices and in respect of which work had not been commenced at the time the summonses were issued. As in previous years other dwellings were brought to a fit state as a pre-requisite to Improvement Grants and Qualification Certificates. There can be no doubt that as a result of these two procedures, and particularly Improvement Grants, very many houses have been given a new lease of life and have been brought up to modern standards and so obviated the necessity for demolition and possible replacement by a Council dwelling. At the end of this section of the report is a tabulated summary of the repairs effected (excluding works the subject of a grant).

Houses made fit as a result of informal action by the Local Authority	46
Houses made fit as a result of formal action by the Local Authority	11

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The increase in the number of grant applications noted in the past two years continued in 1972 and although there was a significant decrease in the number of standard grant applications compared with 1971 these were more than compensated for by the increase in the discretionary type of grant application, giving an overall increase of 15 on the previous year. The total amount paid by way of grant increased by £19,392 from the 1971 figure to £121,754. One major scheme involved the conversion of an old rectory into 10 self contained flats, although in this case the owner has not yet decided to proceed.

Details of grants made during the year are as follows:-

a) Improvement Grants (Discretionary)

Number of schemes submitted	169
Number of schemes approved	159
Total cost of such improvements or conversions	£374,040.
Total cost of grants paid	£109,992.

This is an increase in the amount paid by way of grant of £18,243 compared with 1971 and an increase of £45,648 compared with 1970.

b) Standard Grants

Number of schemes submitted	38
Number of schemes approved	45 (some from 1971)
Total cost of grants paid	£11,762

Although this shows a decrease of 6 schemes approved compared with 1971, the cost of grants paid increased by £1,149.

NEW DWELLINGS

The number of new dwellings completed in the Rural District during 1972 was as follows:-

By Local Authority	6
By private enterprise	96
Total	<u>102</u>

This represents a decrease of 29 on the previous year.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

There was a considerable decrease in the number of applications for qualification certificates compared with the previous year from 36 in 1971 to 23 in 1972 and there were only 4 applications for provisional certificates compared with 19 in the previous year. In fact, no applications for provisional certificates were received after the end of July. This may be due to the amended procedures under the Housing Finance Act 1972 which did away with the necessity for provisional certificates in respect of those dwellings not provided with all standard amenities, the landlord can now apply for a Qualification Certificate once he has carried out the necessary work. It may be, of course, that landlords are preferring to wait for the 3 year staged programme of converting all controlled tenancies to regulated tenancies with fair rents fixed by the Rent Officer without the necessity for carrying out repairs or improvements. As will be seen from the table below, less than 50% of the applications for Qualification Certificates were approved.

A total of 92 visits were made under this heading during the year. Details of certificates issued are as follows:-

a. Qualification Certificates

Applications received	23
Granted	10
Reasons why certificates not granted	
Awaiting completion of repairs	6
Not acceptable - Standard Amenities lacking	4
Not controlled tenancies	2
Pending	1

b. Provisional Certificates

Applications received	4
Granted	3
Withdrawn	1

The following table sets out the sanitary works effected to existing dwellings during the year under review but does not include improvements carried out under improvement grant.

Water closets provided	.....	60
Water closets repaired	.....	16
Washbasins provided	.....	39
Water heaters provided	.....	63
Sinks provided/renewed	.....	62
Baths provided	.....	50
Gullies repaired	.....	4
Drains laid/repaired	.....	60
Choked drains cleared	.....	2
Inspection chambers provided	.....	40
Chimney stacks repaired	.....	105
Roofs repaired	.....	120
Rainwater gutters and pipes repaired/renewed	.....	84
External walls repaired	.....	136
Internal walls and ceilings repaired	.....	140
Floors and staircases repaired	.....	105
Doors and windows repaired/renewed	.....	175
Fire grates and ranges repaired/renewed	.....	13
Dampness remedied	.....	154
Cesspools provided	.....	1
Accummulations removed	.....	3
Yard paving repaired	.....	4
Number of informal notices served during 1972	.....	59
Number of formal notices served during 1972	.....	5
Number of complaints received during 1972	.....	1293

WATER SUPPLIES

The majority of premises continued to be supplied from the mains of the Mid Kent Water Co., the remainder being served by the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Water Co. and the Medway Water Board. In addition a small number of premises received piped supplies from private sources. There are now only 5 known dwellings without a laid-on water supply, these are in isolated locations to which water mains could not be laid at an economical cost.

The only change during the year was the completion of the scheme to lay new mains in the parish of Shipbourne supplied from the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Water Co. These replaced old mains of the Fairlawne Private Supply, which, when all the possible house connections have been made, will merely supply the Fairlawne private estate.

At the 31st December 1972, 99.61% of the dwellings in the district were receiving a piped supply of water from statutory undertakings and a further 0.36% from private sources of supply giving a total of 99.97% of the district receiving a piped supply.

FLOURIDE CONTENT

None of the supplies are subject to flouridation and in all cases the natural content is approximately 0.1. parts per million.

This is a hard water area and none of the supplies are liable to plumbo-solvent action, precautions against this contamination were not therefore required.

WATER MAINS

During 1972 the following water mains were laid in the district to serve new developement and to replace existing mains.

Parish	Metres/ Yards	Size	Water Company
Addington	75 m	75 mm	Mid Kent Water Company
Aylesford	22 m	6"	Medway Water Board
"	37 m	75 mm	Mid Kent Water Company
"	9 m	150 mm	" " " "
"	367 m	200 mm	" " " "
"	188 m	300 mm	" " " "
"	102 m	400 mm	" " " "
Birling	26 m	100 mm	" " " "
Ditton	234 m	75 mm	" " " "
"	870 m	100 mm	" " " "
"	361 m	150 mm	" " " "
East Malling	93 m	100 mm	" " " "
Mereworth	63 m	75 mm	" " " "
"	1799 m	300 mm	" " " "
East Peckham	443 m	100 mm	" " " "
Shipbourne	2039 yds	3"	Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Water
"	118 yds	4"	Company
"	47 yds	6"	" " "
Stansted	14 m	100 mm	Mid Kent Water Company

SAMPLING

With the large number of samples ~~being~~ regularly taken by the statutory undertakers, only occasional check samples were taken by the Inspectors as follows.

	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Examination		
	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Statutory Supply Undertakings	5	5	-	-	-	-
Private Sources piped to dwellings	23	2	-	-	-	-
Other Private Sources	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Mid Kent Water Company have supplied the following information.

During 1972 the following samples relating to the Malling Rural District area were examined.

	<u>Bact.</u>	<u>Chem.</u>
From Consumer's taps within the area	133	26
From pumping stations supplying) Raw	262	38
above area) Treated	408	67
From other areas supplied from above pumping stations	248	47

The following table gives typical chemical analyses of the waters during the year, expressed in parts per million.

	<u>Treated Water at Trosley P.S.</u>	<u>Treated Water at Hartley P.S.</u>	<u>Treated Water at Halling P.S.</u>
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.010	0.012	0.004
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.7	5.6	2.3
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent	Absent	Absent
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hrs. @ 27°C)	0.04	0.06	0.08
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	155	248	155
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	230	260	174
Total Solids (Dried at 180°C)	318	345	235
pH	7.78	7.39	7.49
Free CO ₂	6	21	9
Chloride	26	16	21
Sulphate	64	0	10
Calcium (as CaCO ₃)	210	249	152
Magnesium (as CaCO ₃)	20	11	22
Iron	0.00	0.00	0.00
Manganese	0.00	0.00	0.00
Silica	14	13	15
Phosphate	0.00	0.06	0.07
Residual	0.15	0.2	0.15

DELIVERY OF WATER

During 1972, only 1,600 gallons of water were delivered to houses in the Holly Hill area of Birling and Snodland compared with 20,400 in the previous year. This was due to a private scheme to provide mains water to the 7 properties being completed in March thus obviating the necessity for further deliveries.

The following table shows the number of dwelling houses in each parish, those supplied with water from public or private mains and those known to be without a laid-on supply. In the latter case water is obtained from springs and wells.

Parish	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated Population	No. of houses with piped supply		No. of houses known to be without laid on supply
			Public Mains	Private Sources	
Addington	257	713	257	-	-
Aylesford	2564	7406	2551	13	-
Birling	484	1446	484	-	-
Borough Green	1217	3525	1217	-	-
Burham	676	1923	676	-	-
Ditton	1516	4313	1516	-	-
Ightham	643	1901	643	-	-
Leybourne	201	2101	201	-	-
East Malling & Larkfield	3431	10004	3431	-	-
West Malling	893	2766	893	-	-
Mereworth	438	978	438	-	-
Offham	286	830	286	-	-
East Peckham	1061	2982	1060	-	1
West Peckham	111	308	110	-	1
Platt	499	1407	499	-	-
Plaxtol	359	1072	353	3	3
Ryarsh	257	782	257	-	-
Shipbourne	180	554	129	51	-
Snodland	1629	4593	1629	-	-
Stansted	194	548	194	-	-
Trottiscliffe	202	581	202	-	-
Wateringbury	481	1383	481	-	-
Wouldham	286	839	286	-	-
Wrotham	638	1805	638	-	-
Totals	18503	54760	18431	67	5

METEOROLOGY

The following data concerning meteorology for 1972 (with comparative figures for the four previous years) has been supplied by the Meteorological Officer of the East Malling Research Station.

Month	Temperature in Screen(°C)				Rainfall (mm)				Sunshine
	Mean Maximum	Mean Minimum	Highest	Lowest	Total	50 years Average	Heaviest Rainfall in any one day	No. days rain (0.2 mm and over)	Total hours of sunshine
January	6.0	0.8	10.2	-17.7	75.2	60.5	9.0	26	28.0
February	7.6	1.6	11.8	-14.0	32.5	47.7	5.9	17	38.4
March	11.8	2.0	18.9	- 1.5	47.6	40.2	9.7	13	157.3
April	12.0	5.3	15.9	1.2	43.6	48.4	7.5	16	125.3
May	15.5	6.5	19.5	0.5	35.4	48.0	4.9	19	173.6
June	16.9	7.7	21.1	2.6	32.3	45.2	6.8	14	182.7
July	20.9	12.0	24.6	7.3	43.3	55.4	12.0	8	157.0
August	20.6	10.9	23.7	5.1	33.4	59.7	25.8	5	188.4
September	16.6	8.3	20.9	2.3	37.5	57.6	16.2	8	130.1
October	14.9	6.6	21.7	0.0	9.4	70.3	5.2	7	115.4
November	9.8	3.1	15.0	-1.5	47.5	79.9	14.2	16	80.2
December	8.6	2.8	12.0	-5.0	71.3	65.0	15.1	16	55.5
Total / Average for the year	13.4	5.6			509.0	677.9		165	1431.9
Total/Average for the year 1968					769.4	678.1		174	1368.7
1969					626.4	678.1		164	1520.7
1970					660.4	678.1		179	1598.4
1971					561.5	678.1		136	1558.6

Wettest Period: The longest wet period was from 25th November to 13th December (19 days)

Driest Period: The longest dry period was from 21st August to 2nd September (13 days)

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

I have previously commented on the advisability of all perishable foods having either a coding or open date stamp denoting the end of shelf life and the fact that this is merely a means to an end, i.e. to ensure that all food exposed for sale or sold is in a fit and wholesome condition. The general consensus of public opinion would appear to be strongly in favour of open dating, and, although many voices in the food industry dissent from this view, some chain stores are giving open "sell by" dates and incorporating advice on home storage. Whatever one's view may be, in the long run, with the entry into the Common Market on 1st January 1973, the final decision will rest with whatever is laid down in E.E.C. directives on this subject which will be mandatory on all countries in the E.E.C. This entry into the Common Market is likely to have other effects on food handling in this country. At the present all meat exported to Europe must be accompanied by a certificate of inspection signed by a veterinary officer. It must be remembered that Common Market Countries do not have an officer comparable to the Public Health Inspector and food supervision is carried out by veterinarians or microbiologists.

It would appear that eating habits continue to change. We have seen the increase in the number of deep freeze cabinets in the home, and some chain store supermarkets are now catering for this customer where formerly only the "cash and carry" type of wholesaler or the specialist deep freeze firms were available. More people also seem to be eating out, as is evinced by the increase in restaurant facilities and by the snack or "in a basket" type of food which is now sold in many public houses. I feel it should be placed on record that no cases of food poisoning have been traced to any food handling places in this district.

Containerisation is now accepted means of food handling from countries overseas and during 1972, over 40,000 cases of canned foods, and almost 2,500 quarters of beef were delivered direct to wholesale warehouses in this district in addition to regular twice weekly deliveries of bacon to bacon smoking and wholesale depots. This is food which comes direct to this District without inspection at the port entry and of course has to be supervised.

All aspects of food handling, storage and sale continued to receive routine consideration throughout the year. Brochures setting out the main provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations continued to be distributed to food premises. As one of the three food factories closed down, and automatic chlorination and regular routine testing was carried out at the others, it was not found necessary to carry out as many samples of cooling water as in previous years. All of the 6 samples taken proved satisfactory.

13 complaints of unsatisfactory condition of food were brought to the attention of the Department during the year, two of which were from retailers. Full enquiries were made in each case and steps taken in an endeavour to preclude further recurrence.

Although not strictly food it is perhaps relevant to mention that during the year, publicity was given to necklaces purchased abroad and which were made from beans that could be poisonous if taken into the mouth. Two necklaces were brought to the Department and submitted to the County Analyst, one was found to be harmless but the other was of the poisonous variety and the owner was advised to destroy it.

The following table sets out the number of food premises in the district regularly inspected by the District Public Health Inspectors.

FOOD PREMISES

Category of Trade	No. Premises	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 18	No. to which Reg. 21 applies	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 21
Cafes and Works Canteens	62	62	62	62
Bakehouses	6	6	6	6
Butchers Shops	22	22	22	22
Fishmongers Shops	10	10	10	10
Food Factories	8	8	8	8
Grocers and other Food Shops	187	187	157	157
Greengrocers	21	21	21	21
X Licensed Premises	122	122	122	122
Totals	438	438	408	408

Note: Regulation 18 refers to the provision of wash hand basins and Regulation 21 to the provision of sinks together with the provision of hot and cold water for the equipment.

X Does not include general shops or grocers shops with an off licence sales.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS

Mr. J. Stokoe, the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council has supplied the following details of samples taken during the year ended 31st December, 1972.

<u>Article</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory</u>
Milk	70	3
Butter, margarine, lard, cooking fats, cheese (including processed cheese)	11	-
Tinned meats, meat, fish, fish and meat pastes ..	18	1
Tea, coffee, cocoa, beverages, minerals, cordials	40	5
Jams, preserves, honey, jellies	2	-
Dried fruit, raw fruit, vegetables, tinned fruit and vegetables	27	--
Pickles, sauces, vinegar, condiments	9	-
Drugs, medicines	12	-
Beer, wines, spirits	22	-
Miscellaneous	15	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	226	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>

UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

Buttered Rolls

Fat only 70% Butter fat. Cafe proprietor cautioned.

Buttered Toast

Fat contained no butter fat. Cafe proprietor prosecuted at
Malling Magistrates Court 24.3.72. Fined £1 and £5 costs.

Bread

Contaminated by brown flour dough. Bakers contacted.

100% Grapefruit Juice (Two Samples)

Only 50% Grapefruit Juice. Case against Agents dismissed as they
were held not to be actual importers. Product withdrawn from
market.

Double Cream

Failed Methylene Blue Test. Follow-up samples satisfactory.

Pasteurised Milk

Milk bottle soiled internally. Dairy cautioned.

Untreated Channel Islands Milk, farm bottled

Contained 12.6% Extraneous Water. Dairy cautioned.

Untreated Milk

Contained 2% Extraneous Water. Dairy cautioned.

Cooked Boneless Ham

Iron sulphide contamination. Importers cautioned.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOOD STUFFS

The following quantities of foods were surrendered as unfit for human consumption and for disposal at the Council's refuse tip under strict supervision.

<u>Article</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Bacon		15	1	8
Tinned Meat		12	1	16
Fresh Meat		1	2	20
Tinned, dried and fresh fruit		8	2	16
Tinned and fresh vegetables		7	0	23
Tinned and fresh fish			1	19
Other tinned foods			2	9
Frozen foods		13	3	25
Other foods		1	1	18
	3	1	2	14

In addition 24 chickens and 1 turkey were surrendered.

SLAUGHTERING

The position with regard to slaughtering remained as in the two previous years, viz. only the small slaughterhouse at Plaxtol was in use and the majority of the meat produced was for the private use of the owners of the sheep. With such a limited kill and with the continued co-operation of the butcher concerned, 100% inspection of all animals killed was maintained without the necessity to work overtime or to resort to a formal control of hours of slaughter.

Meat inspection charges were continued at the rate set after decimalisation i.e. bovines 12p, calves and pigs 4p, sheep and lambs 2p. The total income for the year was 18p below that for 1971 at £1.34.

The following table shows the number of animals killed and the amount of meat condemned at the slaughterhouse during the year.

	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Number killed) Number inspected)	-	-	-	67	-	67
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part condemned	-	-	-	5	-	5
Percentage of No. inspected affected	-	-	-	7.5%	-	7.5%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-

Approximate weight condemned 13 lbs.

MILK SUPPLIES

There continued to be liaison between this Authority and the Kent County Council who are responsible for the licensing of designated milk and premises from which milk is sold have received routine inspections. There are 96 distributors and 7 dairies registered in the district.

ICE CREAM

It is considered by many that ordinary bacteriological sampling of ice cream is an unnecessary waste of time as all the ice cream is supplied from nation wide manufacturers subject to close checks and samples throughout the whole of the manufacture. Also as the various additives such as ripples, chocolate coating etc. preclude the normal testing, it was decided in view of the pressure of other work that routine ice cream sampling could be omitted during the year under review.

Details of premises registered and samples taken during the year together with figures for the previous 4 years are as follows:-

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Premises registered for the storage, sale and manufacture of ice cream	169	175	187	209	171

Sample Results

Grade	1	8	2	14	6	-
	2	-	-	-	-	-
	3	1	-	-	-	-
	4	-	-	-	-	-
		9	2	14	6	-

POULTRY PROCESSING PREMISES

There are no poultry processing premises in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The only major change in this service during 1972 was the introduction of the bonus and productivity scheme on Monday 12th June, 1972. After the usual minor and expected difficulties during the first few weeks the system settled down and I am sure has proved of benefit to the rate payers and to the staff. The scheme has helped to reduce staff turnover, although it still remains difficult to obtain suitable replacements when members of the staff leave the Council's service. This is particularly noticeable during the summer months when the labour force is considerably reduced because of annual holidays. The ever increasing holiday entitlements make it necessary for staff to be on holiday during almost every week of the year.

A great deal of work study time will be required during 1973, because of the normal rescheduling of rounds and on this occasion the work is intended to take account of the probable position following local government reorganisation. Work on the rationalisation of vehicle rounds will be commenced in early 1973.

The tonnage of refuse has continued to increase and the total for 1972 reached approximately 23,000 tons. This is a record figure for this district and reflects the constant pressure under which this service is placed, particularly in connection with special collections for unwanted household items, the growing problem of indiscriminately dumped rubbish in spite of increased service by the Council, and the obvious improvement in the standard of living which shows itself through the quantity and type of refuse collected during the normal weekly household collection. The work study scheme made allowances for foreseeable increases, but it is now quite clear that these allowances are being rapidly absorbed and it will be necessary for recommendations for staff and possibly vehicle increases, to be made to the new authority when annual estimates are prepared for the next financial year.

The following table shows the quantities of refuse collected and disposed of during the past ten years. These figures are based on estimated tonnage and check weighings.

Year	Tons
1963	15423
1964	15908
1965	16177
1966	18757
1967	19301
1968	20703
1969	20840
1970	20285
1971	19562
1972	22969

The increase in quantity of refuse shows itself at the refuse tip and whereas previous estimates are proving to be about right, the cubic capacity remaining is rapidly diminishing. Unfortunately I must report that there has been no progress towards finding a new refuse tip. Despite many hours of searching and consultation with officers of the County Council the position remains substantially the same as outlined in my report for 1971. Refuse disposal is of course one of the services to become the responsibility of the County Council in 1974 but, quite obviously, one would like to feel that adequate provision, for some years at least, would be available at the time of transfer.

I feel that this is a matter of considerable urgency and I cannot stress too strongly that every possible opportunity must be taken to bring the matter to the attention of the County Council during the coming months. Without guidance from the new refuse disposal authority it will be impossible to make sound recommendations to the members of the new Tonbridge and Malling District, particularly with respect to the rationalisation of collection rounds and the most economical use of labour and vehicles for refuse collection. The delivery period on refuse vehicles is now approaching 12 months and not only must adequate information be received before estimates are produced, but sufficient time must remain for the vehicles to be delivered by the manufacturers.

The collection and sale of salvage was continued during 1972 and again proved to be well worth while although considerable restrictions were placed on the tonnage of fibrous materials by the Board Mills because of the general economic situation. At the year's end the future position was beginning to look much more hopeful.

ABANDONED AND UNWANTED VEHICLES

Provision had been made for the reorganisation and improvement of this service during 1972., but unfortunately, because of serious and unexpected staff difficulties, it was not possible to implement these changes. However, in spite of difficulties approximately 130 vehicles had been dealt with at the year's end.

At its meeting in September the Public Health Committee gave instructions for a contractor to be employed on this work and I am very pleased to be able to report that by the end of December good progress was being made in dealing with vehicles on the waiting list.

It is now very clear that the number of requests for this service is increasing considerably, but I am pleased that there is also a marked tendency for vehicle owners to bring their vehicles to the Cleansing Depot at East Malling for disposal. This means that there is virtually no delay, because as soon as the Registration Book is received authority is given to the person concerned to take the vehicle to the Depot and this is clearly of benefit both to the individual and the rate payers in general.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

I am once again very pleased to be able to report that the number of premises connected to the new sewers throughout the district has continued to rise with a consequent reduction in the number of cesspools. However, I must say that the tendency for the occupiers of premises continuing to be served by cesspools to require greater service is increasing and this tendency unfortunately reduces the effect of the connections. In addition 29 cesspools, with a total capacity of approximately 80,000 gallons, were emptied for the first time during 1972.

After very considerable difficulty in the early part of the year and again during the peak holiday periods of August and September, the position at the year's end was better than for a great many years.

Nearly ten million gallons of sewage were removed from cesspools and pail closets. The availability of sewers and the continuation of the policy to encourage owners to convert pail closets, has resulted in the total pails emptied by the Council being reduced to 42 at the 31st December. I am particularly hopeful that the completion of the East Peckham Scheme will have a marked effect on pail closets in the parish and the amount of sewage to be removed from cesspools.

A bonus and productivity scheme was commenced on 12th June, 1972.

VEHICLES

At the year's end your vehicles were as follows:-

- 1 - Revopak 18/130 R.C.V.
- 2 - Revopak 15/120 R.C.V's
- 4 - 50 cu.yd. Pakamatic R.C.V's
- 1 - 35 cu.yd. Pakamatic R.C.V.
- 1 - 20 cu.yd. Pakamatic R.C.V.
- 2 - 35 cu.yd. F.A.T.; R.C.V's (one with container equipment)
- 1 - 25 cu.yd. F.A.T., R.C.V. (with container equipment)
- 1 - Karrier Bantam 10 cu.yd. S.L., R.C.V.
- 1 - Ford Thames 2 ton Truck (for use on refuse tip)
- 2 - Ford D.400 dropside trucks
- 1 - Ford D.800 dropside truck
- 1 - 1500 gallon Cesspool Emptier
- 3 - 1000 gallon Cesspool Emptiers
- 2 - 1100 gallon Cesspool Emptiers
- 1 - Ford D.T. 800 Tanker
- 2 - Ford 5 cwt. Vans
- 8 - Ford 6 cwt. Vans
- 1 - Ford Transit Van
- 1 - Ford Transit Tipper Truck
- 1 - Track Marshall 75C R.C.M.
- 1 - JCB 2 DS
- 3 - Fordson Tractors
- 1 - Wingate 30 cwt/ton Dumper
- 1 - Wingate 15 cwt. Dumper

43 vehicles are employed in the refuse collection, cesspool emptying, sewage disposal and rodent control services and, together with grass cutting and other ancillary equipment, are serviced at your workshops at the Cleansing Depot, Mill Street, East Malling.

The difficulty of obtaining and maintaining a stock of spares is still one of the greatest problems, particularly in connection with the older vehicles in the fleet. The general commercial policy of frequent replacement of vehicles is now very apparent in connection with vehicles used by local authorities.

Very considerable difficulty has been experienced during the last year because of shortage of staff at the Depot. This has not only affected the preparation of vehicles for Department of Environment testing, but also routine maintenance schedules. Unfortunately the new fitter who commenced work in January 1972, worked at the Depot for only a few days and at the year's end it had not been possible to replace him.

The coming year will be a particularly difficult one because of the constant pressure brought about by the rigid schedules that are needed to ensure that all your vehicles are plated and tested within very close limits of time. Failure in this respect could jeopardise the major services of the Council.

PUBLIC CLEANSING STAFF

The 1972 establishment for Public Cleansing was as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 General Foreman | 1 Bulldozer Driver |
| 1 Chargehand Fitter | 2 Rodent Operators |
| 3 Fitters | 5 Public Convenience Attendants |
| 2 Depot Hands | 12 Cesspool Emptying Personnel |
| 1 Paper Baler | 43 Refuse Collection Personnel |

Total 71

13 men were engaged and 21 left the service during the year.

2314 working days were lost, compared with 1853 during 1971.
This is the equivalent of approximately 9 men.

The lost working time was made up as follows:-

Sickness	1298
Holidays	806
Other Reasons	210
	<hr/>
	2314
	<hr/>

I am pleased to say that the work study based incentive and bonus schemes in connection with refuse collection and cesspool emptying introduced on Monday 12th June 1972, have done much to assist in reducing the rate of employees leaving the department. The constant difficulty is to maintain adequate staff to cover absenteeism, sickness and the ever increasing annual holiday entitlement.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

During 1972 five conveniences were open to the public and at the year's end the construction of the new building at Aylesford was nearing completion.

Alterations and improvements were made to all your conveniences to enable them to be more easily used by disabled persons.

The part-time attendants continued to carry out their work in a most conscientious manner and I am sure that their frequent visits to the conveniences, often outside their basic working hours, does much to reduce vandalism.

PEST CONTROL

I have set out below in tables (a) and (b) the work carried out by your two Operators, Mr. A. A. Broad and Mr. G. Baldock.

(a)

Properties other than sewers	Types of Property	
	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	18503	250
2.a. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	1338	129
2.b. Number infested by (i) Rats	1058	116
(ii) Mice	282	13
3.a. Total number of properties inspected for rat and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	24	-
3.b. Number infested by (i) Rats	6	-
(ii) Mice	1	-

(b)

Wasps	182	Fleas	18	Beetles	7
Ants	18	Cockroaches	22	Flies	3
Bees	1	Bugs	6	Bats	3
Crickets	4	Spiders	1		

29 contracts were in operation at 31st December and the total annual income from these contracts amounted to approximately £807.10.

So far as your sewers are concerned the level of infestation remains very low and during 1972 was again confined to small areas. However, it is essential that regular and systematic control be maintained if these small pockets of infestation are not to grow and affect more extensive parts of the system and premises in the locality.

No evidence of warfarin resistance in rats has been experienced, but mice continue to present a problem. Successful eradication is still achieved by the use of alphachloralose, but treatment against mice is proving an increasingly expensive and time-consuming part of the service. Mice are becoming a National problem and one which is not confined to this rural district.

Advice is given to householders on the control of foxes, grey squirrels, moles etc. Advisory leaflets are provided but actual control work is not undertaken by your staff.

I feel that I can again report that 1972 was a very satisfactory year from a pest control point of view, but I must say that the most significant aspect of the development of this service is the continual increase in the number of applications for treatment. Many applications are in respect of very minor matters, about which, some years ago, householders would not have thought of contacting the local authority. The time involved in these comparatively trivial matters is considerable and the cost of the work frequently outweighs the benefit achieved from a pest control point of view.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year, work on phase 2 of the extension of the sewers in East Peckham and resewering of St. Leonard Street, West Malling were completed.

Work progressed on the preparations to deliver the sewerage of Burham and Eccles to the Maidstone Corporation Sewage disposal works together with limited new sewerage in Aylesford and Burham and it is hoped to start work in the Autumn of 1973. This will enable the Eccles disposal works, which is no longer capable of producing a satisfactory effluent, to be abandoned.

Most of the difficulties in relation to the siting of the proposed pumping station in connection with the scheme for sewerage of the village of Stansted were overcome during the year and it is hoped that the contract work will be commenced in the Spring of 1973.

Work on preparing a scheme for the resewering of parts of Aylesford have been held up pending the decision on the siting of a new hospital. In the meantime, the emergency measures taken at Hall Road pumping station have been successful in preventing flooding in time of storm.

Preparations for schemes to sewer Blue Bell Hill area to the sewers of Chatham Borough and the Kits Coty area to Maidstone Borough Works were also proceeded with during 1972 and it is hoped that the contracts will commence in 1974.

Another contract due to start in 1974 is for the sewerage of parts of Mereworth, West Peckham and Watlingtonbury to discharge to the Watlingtonbury sewage disposal works which will be enlarged.

A review is to be carried out of the remaining unsewered areas in the district.

AIR POLLUTION

There were no changes in either sites or instruments from 1971; three smoke and sulphur dioxide recording instruments and four deposit gauges continued in use. Although less interference with the gauges was experienced during the year, the result for September for the Snodland site was nullified by extraneous matter having been put into the instrument.

The conversion from coal to oil fuel at the large paper mill complex at New Hythe, which was completed towards the end of 1971, does not appear to have had any significantly adverse effect on the sulphur dioxide level. This can be judged by comparing the results from Aylesford and Burham with those for Borough Green. The position will be kept under review.

As far as sulphur dioxide is concerned, the general level was lower than in the previous year, although there was a significant rise in all 3 stations in March. Burham, while showing an increase did not rise to the same extent as Aylesford and Borough Green. During this particular period winds were mainly from the South East, i.e. blowing from over residential areas to the two latter sites, and there were also long periods of calm. Both Aylesford and Borough Green showed a slight increase on the previous year in August, September and October but lower for the remainder of the year. In spite of these increases, levels are well below the target to be aimed at as an optimum standard.

The picture with regard to smoke is that all three stations gave a similar pattern and results throughout the year, with the exception of December when Borough Green had a larger seasonal increase than the other two. The rise in sulphur dioxide in March, mentioned above, was mirrored in the smoke results, but with the exception of August when all three results were slightly above those for the same period in 1971, the remainder of the year gave lower readings. In fact the June figures were the lowest ever recorded at these sites. As I have stated before, from a smoke concentration point of view, this area has no problem, the results being well below the optimum standard.

I feel I should make the point that although comparisons have been made between individual months in the two years quoted above, too much emphasis should not be placed on this due to the considerable effect of meteorological conditions on results. It is the overall picture and the trend over a period of years that are more significant.

The overall picture with regard to deposit gauge results is also satisfactory. The summer readings for Snodland were almost one half of those for the same period in the previous year and Ditton approximately one third. Aylesford, while again showing a decrease, was not of the same dramatic proportions.

The Teapot Lane gauge also showed significant reductions, thus the decrease noted in the latter half of 1971 following the cessation of motorway construction and the completion of the changeover from coal to oil fuel at the paper mills was continued throughout 1972. This particular gauge is unfortunately prone to vandalism from time to time and results have to be discounted when it is found that earth and pieces of grass and weeds have been thrown into the bowl.

During the year under review, 19 notifications and applications for approval to install furnaces in domestic and industrial premises were granted and 9 approvals granted to the height of new chimneys.

SHOPS ADMINISTRATION

Implementation of the administration of the Shops Acts was continued along the lines well established over the years and which has been found to be satisfactory, that is taking the opportunity to deal with this subject mainly when visiting shops in connection with other duties. During 1972, a total of 524 visits was made.

Also during the year, the policy was continued of visiting shops on change of occupier and leaving a brochure explaining the principal provisions of the Act. No changes were noted in the closing of shops before the permitted hours or the five day week in certain shops.

One complaint was received of a young person being employed in excess of the permitted hours as a trainee chef at an hotel. As the premises ceased to be residential and the person concerned had already left the employment no further action was necessary. No representations were received concerning the administration of the Act during the year under review, nor was it found necessary to institute any legal proceedings.

SWIMMING POOLS

The colder summer of 1972 considerably reduced the use of the outdoor swimming pools at the schools. Of the 7 schools in the district at which these are installed, only 6 were operated, the pool at Shipbourne being out of use due to the need for a new inner lining. The pool at Borough Green school was out of operation for some weeks at the beginning of the season while major structural repairs were carried out. Only Plaxtol school was open during the summer holidays, but even this was on a much reduced use due to the inclement weather.

Borough Green school changed over from a liquid to a fresh powder chemical for chlorination and some difficulty was experienced in obtaining the correct dosage. It should be realised that when these pools are in use for swimming instruction they are subject to a very heavy load as class follows class, and, with the comparatively small quantity of water compared with the average public swimming baths, the maintenance of satisfactory conditions can prove very difficult.

In addition to taking samples, the Public Health Inspectors also carry out on the spot tests for chlorine content and acidity. By this means, teachers and caretakers can be informed immediately if conditions are not satisfactory and steps can be taken to put matters right.

The private indoor pools at Buckmore and Leybourne Grange Hospital continued to be in use throughout the whole of the year.

Supervision of all pools was carried out during the whole period they were in use and conditions in general have been satisfactory as can be seen from the fact that only 7 of the 168 samples taken during the year were found to be unsatisfactory. Some of these were due to the fact that when cold weather precluded swimming for a few days there was a tendency for treatment to be suspended until the pools were to be used again. In other cases repeat samples after increased chlorination had taken place gave satisfactory results.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no registered common lodging houses in the district.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The problem of gypsies and other itinerants has been voiced over the years but it cannot be emphasised too strongly that the only answer is in the provision of sufficient sites. The time is overdue when those authorities who have made such provision should be declared as designated areas and other authorities required to provide sites. Whatever ones views on the desirability or otherwise of this type of life and accommodation two basic facts remain, these travellers do exist and without adequate sites they will continue to camp by the roadside simply because there is nowhere else for them to go.

Over the years we have seen a change in the design and size of caravans, particularly those which are static. Many of the modern caravans are so large that they cannot be transported on the roads in this country unless they are carried on a low loading vehicle trailer. Some are divided into two units which are fastened together on site. The latest type, so called "mobile homes" can really be classed as a form of prefabricated bungalow being provided with all the amenities of an ordinary dwelling and being connected to and supplied by mains services. There were 77 caravans on 28 licensed sites (excluding showmen's sites) in the district in 1972.

One private tented site was in operation in addition to the Boy Scouts Site and the Camping Club of Great Britain Site. At the latter site, the modern toilet block and septic tank drainage system completed in 1971 was in use for the first time. Due to the upgrading of the site by the Club and its increased popularity among the members, the drainage system was grossly overloaded. Meetings were held with Club officials, the architect and builders to discuss means of overcoming this difficulty.

A total of 107 visits was made under this heading during the year.

HOP PICKING

The overall position was similar to recent previous years with a slight decrease in the number of persons housed in camps. Mechanisation is now an established fact at all the farms and as in previous years a considerable number of the persons employed in this brief seasonal occupation were students filling in time before returning to Universities and Colleges. 173 persons were housed in 11 camps and one other farm had temporary workers who provided their own caravans for living accommodation. Conditions were generally satisfactory and 17 visits were made to ensure compliance with byelaws.

NOISE

Half of the 10 complaints received related to traffic noise from the new motorway that was opened during the year. It is inevitable that when this type of development takes place in an area which hitherto has been open fields, that complaints will ensue. Noise level readings were taken at various times during the day and at a very early hour to ascertain the extent of the noise, comparison readings taken at houses alongside the existing trunk road gave much higher results than those affected by the motorway. This was in spite of the reduction of traffic on the trunk road due to the motorway. Other complaints referred to motor cycles on a private track, barking of dogs and noise from brickworks and noise from an industrial estate. Whenever it was considered a statutory nuisance was possibly being caused, informal action was taken and the noise abated or reduced to an acceptable level.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

As in previous years, the majority of applications for Stage play licences were for short periods, some being for one performance only, as very few, if any, of the amateur dramatic societies can afford the fees for annual licences. Full liaison was maintained with the Kent Fire Brigade and a Fire Officer's report obtained before either a stage play or cinematograph licence was issued. Before premises are licensed for the first time, it is usual for a joint inspection to be carried out by the Public Health Inspectors and a Fire Officer and the matter discussed on the site with the applicant.

7 stage play licences and 2 cinematograph licences were issued during the year.

PETROLEUM

. Although there has been some modernisation of service stations, this has not been as noticeable as in the previous year. Blender pumps being installed in some instances in place of the existing single rating pumps. Some stations improved and modernised the workshops, showrooms and sales areas, and plans were examined of proposals for other garages. Two service stations closed down during the year, one later reopening as a temporary measure pending the construction of a replacement station on the same land.

Close and harmonious liaison has been maintained with the Kent Fire Brigade, and the Home Office codes of Practice are strictly enforced in all premises where petrol or petroleum based mixtures are stored.

Licences were issued to 42 service stations, 83 other premises and 1 depot. In addition to the inspections carried out by the Kent Fire Brigade on behalf of this Authority, the Public Health Inspectors carried out 130 visits under this heading during the year under review.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Investigation into cases of infectious disease, obtaining specimens for bacteriological examination and the surveillance of contacts of diseases from overseas continued to be carried out by the Public Health Inspectors. Details of the numbers of diseases will be found in Dr. Dummer's section of the Report. A total of 48 visits was made by the Inspectors during 1972.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

In addition to the 23 new premises shown in the following tables as being registered during 1972, a further 10 premises changed hands and were reregistered in the name of the new employer, while 9 premises were removed from the register as no longer coming within the scope of the Act. At the year's end there were 323 premises registered, an increase of 14 on the previous year. Altogether a total of 447 visits was made under this heading by the Inspectors.

The procedure adopted in previous years of carrying out inspections under the Act when visiting premises in connection with other legislation and upon registration was continued, as this has been found by experience to work effectively in this district. It was however necessary for the Inspectors to continue to visit other premises to ascertain whether or not registration was applicable.

No exceptionally bad standards have been found in the observance of employers in their responsibilities under the Act, and employers have generally proved co-operative. However it is rare for unsolicited registration applications to be received and it is only by the visits of the Inspectors mentioned above that the majority of the registrations are effected. Any impetus that may have been gained from the original publicity has long since been lost. It has not been found necessary to invoke the use of Section 22 in relation to dangerous conditions and practices during the year under review.

While there was an increase in the number of accidents reported, from 2 in 1971 to 9 in 1972, it should be recognised that this is still a low figure when compared with the number of persons employed. It is however still 9 too many. It has been said that accidents do not occur, but are caused, and of those reported all but two could have been prevented by a little more care on the part of the injured person. All notifications are closely scrutinised and additional information obtained before any decision is made as to whether or not any action, formal or informal is called for. 4 of the accidents involved falls, 4 whilst engaged in handling goods and 1 when using machinery. 6 took place in warehouse premises, and one in each of an office, a shop and a restaurant kitchen. It was not found necessary to carry out any formal investigations during the year.

The exemption granted to the Post Office in respect of the minimum space standard at a telephone exchange was continued in 1972. This exchange has a limited life as a new automatic exchange is being built, and when this is operational the existing exchange will be closed down. No other exemptions were applied for and it was not found necessary to institute any legal proceedings during the year under review.

Details of the number of premises registered and persons employed are given in the following tables:-

CLASS OF PREMISES	No. premises registered during the year.	Total No. premises registered at end of year.	No. registered premises receiving general inspection during the year.
Offices	9	90	29
Retail Shops	10	178	143
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	2	15	9
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	36	25
Fuel storage depots	-	4	1
TOTALS	23	323	207

Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises - 264

Analysis of Persons employed in registered premises by workplace.

Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	1010
Retail Shops	651
Wholesale departments, warehouses	305
Catering establishments open to the public	202
Canteens	13
Fuel storage depots	22
TOTAL	2203
TOTAL MALES	1065
TOTAL FEMALES	1138

Exemptions

No exemptions have been applied for or granted during the year.

Prosecutions

No prosecutions have been instituted during the year.

Number of Inspectors appointed under the Act - 4

Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act - Nil

FACTORIES

The following tables show the number of inspections of factories carried out and the details of defects found:-

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Notices	Owners Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3, 4 & 6 are enforced by local authorities	2	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	231	58	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers premises)	9	-	-	-
TOTALS	242	58	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (s.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (s.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (s.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences not including offences relating to Home Work	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	5	5	-	-	-

OUTWORK

(Section 133 & 134)

Nature of work	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Pro cut
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel making etc.	2	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL	2	-	-	-	-	

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

During the year, 11,941 inspections were carried out in connection with work of the department, comprised as follows:-

FOOD PREMISES

Number of visits	to	Bakehouses	.....	27
"	"	" Butchers shops	.....	97
"	"	" Grocers shops & general shops	.....	255
"	"	" Greengrocers	.....	53
"	"	" Cafes & works canteens	.....	148
"	"	" Confectioners	.....	17
"	"	" Fishmongers shops	.....	19
"	"	" Public houses	.....	65
"	"	" Slaughterhouses	.....	12
"	"	" Sweets & tobacco shops	.....	52
"	"	re Meat inspection	.....	21
"	"	" Milk	.....	53
"	"	" Ice cream and Ham (sec.16)	.....	263
"	"	" Unsound food	.....	214
"	"	to Food factories	.....	104
"	"	" Mobile food shops	.....	9
"	"	re Food vending machines	.....	32
"	"	" Imported food	.....	82

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND MISCELLANEOUS

Number of visits	carried out under Housing and/or			
	Public Health Acts	.....		1440
"	"	re Housing inspections in connection		
	with rehousing	.....		15
"	"	" Improvement Grants	.....	554
"	"	" Qualification Certificates	.....	92
"	"	" Land charges and loans	.....	6
"	"	" Rent Acts	.....	11
"	"	to Hop pickers camps	.....	17
"	"	" Moveable dwellings	.....	107
"	"	" Notifiable and infectious diseases	.....	48
"	"	" Water	.....	49
"	"	re Air pollution	.....	256
"	"	to Factories and workplaces	.....	58
"	"	" Outworkers	.....	6
"	"	" Rats and/or mice infestation		
	(inc. 5222 by Rodent Operators)	.....		5246
"	"	" Pest and/or vermin (other than		
	rats or mice)	.....		304
"	"	" Swimming Pools	.....	131
"	"	" Rivers, streams, ditches, etc.	.....	8
"	"	re Shops Acts	.....	524
"	"	to Piggeries	.....	25
"	"	" Waste food boiling plants	.....	11
"	"	" Animal Boarding establishments	.....	8
"	"	re Petroleum	.....	130
"	"	" Public assembly	.....	1
"	"	" Sewage and sewage disposal	.....	23
"	"	" Cesspool, septic tanks, drains	.....	94

Number of visits re Refuse accumulations and/or					
			Manure heaps	.....	4
"	"	"	" Refuse collection	.....	265
"	"	"	" Refuse disposal	.....	60
"	"	"	" Road cleansing	.....	6
"	"	"	to Public Conveniences	.....	31
"	"	"	" Noise nuisance	.....	120
"	"	"	re Cesspool emptying	.....	136
"	"	"	" Abandoned vehicles	.....	76
"	"	"	to Quarries	.....	3
"	"	"	re Offices, Shops and Railway		
			Premises Act	.....	447
"	"	"	" Miscellaneous	.....	105

In conclusion, I would like to record my thanks and appreciation to the Council for their continuous support and interest during the year and to the staff for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,.

Your Obedient Servant,

H.C. COLDRICK.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

	Number of houses at 31.12.72.	Area (Acres)	Population (estimated)
Addington	257	1119	713
Aylesford	2564	4013	7406
Birling	484	1801	1446
Borough Green	1217	480	3525
Burham	676	1632	1923
Ditton	1516	1066	4313
Ightham	643	2278	1901
Leybourne	201	755	2101
East Malling & Larkfield	3431	2787	10004
West Malling	893	1379	2766
Mereworth	438	2556	978
Offham	286	1479	830
East Peckham	1061	3337	2982
West Peckham	111	1582	308
Platt	499	1827	1407
Plaxtol	359	2406	1072
Ryarsh	257	1375	782
Shipbourne	180	2007	554
Snodland	1629	1958	4593
Stansted	194	1974	548
Trottiscliffe	202	1131	581
Wateringbury	481	1377	1383
Wouldham	286	1855	839
Wrotham	638	3457	1805
TOTALS	18503	45631	54760

Area of District (in acres)	...	45631
Registrar General's estimate of Mid Home Population	...	54760
Average density of persons per acre	...	1.20
No. of inhabited dwellings (31.12.72.)	...	18503
Average density of dwellings	1 per	2.47 acres
Average number of persons per dwelling inhabited	...	2.96
Rateable value (as at 31.12.72.)	...	£2,793,535
Sum represented by a penny rate (1972/73)	...	£27,946 (Est)

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